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Photo by Staff Sgt. Markus M. Maier

Exercise realism

During a scenario involving “hostile” forces attacking Camp Freedom, Tech. Sgt. Michael Davenport, 377th Security Forces Squadron, and Senior Airman Molly Whitehurst, 377th Civil

Engineer Division, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, shoot their way into the camp during an Operational Readiness Exercise at Coyote Canyon May 13. See more photos on Pages 13-15.

Base hiring civilian security forces

BY JENNIFER E. WEST
Nucleus staff writer

When Air Force Secretary Dr. James Roche directed hiring for filling 495 new civilian security forces positions, Kirtland AFB became the recipient of 50 of those jobs.

The jobs at squadron level throughout the Air Force are being filled this year.

Lt. Col. Keith Harris, 377th Security Forces commander, said the new jobs are “a result of security forces being recognized as a stressed career field. Our new team members will help a great deal by filling existing shortfalls.”

The already stretched 377th Security Forces Squadron was further stressed after Sept. 11, 2001, and members of the New Mexico Army National Guard deployed to help man the gates to Kirtland AFB since that time. But those Guard members are

no longer an option to relieve the demands for manning at the gates here due to Guard’s deployment requirements.

The initiative to hire civilians will allow military security forces members to perform other security duties on the installation and to be available for deployments.

The new employees will perform a variety of security functions, including resource and force protection, along with installation entry control. They will work along side military members and be certified and trained to handle the same work.

“Hiring civilians to assist with Air Force security will enhance our total force posture,” Colonel Harris added. “These civilian partners will integrate with a security team already composed of Air Force active duty, Reserve and Air and Army National Guard.

“They will provide much needed stability and continuity to our important force protection activities as Air Force members continue to deploy in support of Air Expeditionary Force.”

Steve Parker, Civilian Personnel Flight chief at Kirtland AFB, said the new permanent career police officer positions “will definitely have a positive impact on the local economy...having civilian positions traditionally held by military personnel only will be a great boost to the Air Force objective of building an integrated workforce.”

Although most of the positions listed on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site have closed for further applications, some entry level spots are still listed. Visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil to view job descriptions, to make a required online resume and to “self-nominate” to apply.

Pentagon Channel coming to Kirtland AFB

The Pentagon Channel, DOD’s news and information television service, officially launched May 14 with a live broadcast from the Armed Forces Day opening ceremony at Andrews AFB, Md.

The Pentagon Channel, www.pentagonchannel.mil/, which previously existed as an information channel within the Pentagon, will now be distributed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to all

military installations in the United States via domestic satellite, and overseas through the American Forces Radio and Television Service.

“Besides viewing the Pentagon Channel over the Internet, the Kirtland AFB community will soon be able to receive it over Comcast cable, just like the Commanders Access Channel,” Lt. Col. Mark A. Bertholf, 377th Air Base Wing

director of information technology, said. “A satellite receiver is on its way to us so that we can work with the cable company to download the signal and provide service to base residents and workers. As we work out the details, we will let the base know where to tune to enjoy the Pentagon Channel.”

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KIRTLAND
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deployed in
14
locations

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